



For Immediate Release

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Hundreds of Certified 'Clean Bay Restaurants' across Los Angeles Coastal Cities Address Stormwater Pollution

#CleanBayEats Contest Runs through July 31

Los Angeles, CA (July 2013) – The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (SMBRC) [Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program](#) (CBRP) is pleased to announce the certification—or equally important recertification—of hundreds of restaurants across the cities of Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, and Santa Monica. The cities and SMBRC work in collaboration to inspect and certify that the restaurants included have achieved a 100% score on the program's checklist of standards for stormwater runoff reduction, going above and beyond local stormwater regulations.

From oceanside restaurants to mall eateries, certified Clean Bay restaurants must have a full-scale recycling program, properly divert storm water runoff of daily maintenance practices, implement exterior dry sweeping, and follow any additional city restrictions such as be Styrofoam-free or adhere to plastic bag bans, among many other requirements.

"The Clean Bay Restaurant program has become more and more effective over the past few years as restaurant owners and managers see the value of demonstrating to the public their commitment to the environment," states Frank Senteno, P.E., Director of Public Works, City of Hermosa Beach. "They look forward to receiving their certificates following inspections as do patrons actively looking for them."

About 460 restaurants are currently certified in the cities noted above, as well as Malibu and Torrance. A list of each city's restaurants involved is on the Program's [webpage](#).

Stormwater pollution poses a serious problem for Santa Monica Bay—which stretches from the LA-Ventura county line in the north to the Palos Verdes Peninsula in the south—and local beaches, and is a major source of coastal pollution in Southern California. The Bay and its coastline are critical to the regional economy and local ecology, and are important recreational and cultural resources for the 2nd most populous region in the U.S.

Extended through July 31st, the SMBRC is also running a Clean Bay Eats contest. By simply checking in at a favorite certified restaurant, and sharing a photo/experience on the "Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation" Facebook page along with the phrase #CleanBayEats, contestants can win a prize.



bay restoration commission
STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

The SMBRC created and facilitates the CBRP, and works closely with the cities to identify and acknowledge those restaurants doing their part to protect the Bay and beaches. The cities inspect restaurants multiple times per year. The restaurants in the program receive the following benefits:

- Window display identifying the establishment as a “Clean Bay” Certified Restaurant, committed to protecting the Santa Monica Bay
- Special recognition by the city
- Recognition in the local paper
- Recognition/inclusion on the SMBRC’s Clean Bay web site as a Certified Restaurant
- Potential increased patronage by environmentally concerned residents and visitors

The SMBRC is a science-focused, non-regulatory, and locally-based state entity involved in a range of programs and partnerships to restore and protect the Santa Monica Bay, including restoration of wetlands, coastal kelp forests, and more. The organization works for sustainable fisheries; runs the Honey Pot Day program for local boaters; hosts the only kayak-based Coastal Cleanup Day event in Los Angeles (Sept. 21); and publishes the *Boater’s Guide for Southern California*, the annual *Urban Coast* journal, and an in-depth *State of the Bay* report every five years.

To find out how you can help make your local beaches safe and clean, please contact the SMBRC at (213) 576-6645.

About Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC)

The SMBRC is a State Commission established in 2002 by the California State legislature. It replaces the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project, which was established in 1988 by the State of California and U.S. EPA as a National Estuary Program under the Clean Water Act. The SMBRC is a non-regulatory, locally-based state entity charged with overseeing and promoting the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) by securing and leveraging funding to put solutions into action, building public-private partnerships, promoting cutting-edge research and technology, facilitating stakeholder-driven consensus processes, and raising public awareness. The BRP focuses on three priority areas—water quality, natural resources, and benefits and values to humans—to ensure the long-term health of the 266-square mile Bay and its 400-square mile watershed.

(<http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/>)

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation site is www.santamonicabay.org.

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